

**CLAIMS**

1       1-7. (*canceled*)

1       8. (*currently amended*) A method comprising the steps of:  
2       introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization  
3       probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by  
4       sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;

5       centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that  
6       centrifugal force in excess of 1G urges said sample liquid against said  
7       array; and

8       agitating said sample liquid in said reaction cell during said  
9       centrifuging by rotating said reaction cell about an agitation axis that  
10      is more orthogonal to than along said centrifugal force so that said  
11      sample liquid moves relative to said array.

9. (*canceled*)

1       10. (*currently amended*) A method as recited in Claim 9-8 wherein  
2       said agitating involves periodically changing the direction of rotation  
3       about said agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1       11. (*previously presented*) A method as recited in Claim 10 wherein  
2       said centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell during said  
3       agitating at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

12. (*canceled*)

13. (*canceled*)

1       14. (*currently amended*) A method as recited in Claim 13-8 further  
2       comprising a step of removing sample liquid from said reaction cell,  
3       said removing step involving rotating said reaction cell about said  
4       agitation axis so that said centrifugal force urges said fluid in said  
5       reaction cell away from said array.

1        15. (*previously presented*) A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein  
2        said sample liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume during  
3        said centrifuging and agitating.

16-25. (*canceled*)